

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to further clarify what Applicants consider to be their invention.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 3, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

The Examiner indicates that the claim recites "wherein the surface area of the connecting lines is larger than said electrodes." but does not specify whether the comparison is between the surface area of an individual connecting line and an individual electrode or between the total surface area of the connecting lines and all of the electrodes on the display panel. For the purposes of examination, the claim will be interpreted as a comparison between the surface area of an individual connecting line and an individual electrode.

In response to this rejection, Applicants note that the comparison is between the surface area of an individual connecting line and an individual electrode, as the Examiner has interpreted the claims. To further clarify this point, Applicants have amended claim 3 to recite that the surface area of an individual connecting line is larger than that of an individual second electrode.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the present claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Art Rejections

On page 3 of the Office Action, in paragraph 5, claims 1,4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagayama (5,936,344). Further, on page 4 of the Office Action, in paragraph 7, claims 2, 3, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagayama (5,936,344) in view of Qian et al. (6,339,288).

The Examiner's position is set forth in detail in the Office Action and will not be repeated here for purposes of brevity.

In response to this rejection, Applicants submit that Nagayama discloses forming the metal-bus-line 5 with a material and thickness equal to the second electrodes (cathodes) 4. Nagayama also discloses the first electrodes (anodes) 2 formed of a material such as indium-tin oxide (ITO) having low resistance value.

However, Applicants submit that Nagayama fails to disclose the subject claimed matter of claim 1 that the electrically conductive connecting lines are lower in resistance than the second electrodes.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious over Nagayama, nor is it obvious over Nagayama in view of Qian, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 6 is canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An organic electroluminescent display panel comprising:
a substrate including a display panel region having a plurality of organic electroluminescent devices [each formed of a plurality of display electrodes and an organic material layer, which are stacked];
first electrodes formed on the substrate;
an organic material layer formed on the first electrodes;
second electrodes formed on the organic material layer; and
a plurality of electrically conductive connecting lines electrically connected to [said] the second electrodes and formed in a domain surrounding the display panel region on [said] the substrate;
wherein each of the organic electroluminescent devices is formed of the first electrodes,
the organic material layer and the second electrodes,
wherein [said] the electrically conductive connecting lines are lower in resistance than [said] the second electrodes.

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2. (Amended) The organic electroluminescent display panel according to claim 1, wherein said connecting lines are constituted by electrically conductive thick portions that are thicker than said second electrodes.

3. (Amended) The organic electroluminescent display panel according to claim 1, wherein the surface area of [the] an individual connecting [lines] line is larger than [said electrodes] that of an individual second electrode.

4. (Amended) The organic electroluminescent display panel according to claim 1, wherein said connecting lines are made of a material that is lower in resistance than a material of said second electrodes.

5. (Amended) The organic electroluminescent display panel according to claim 2, wherein a total thickness of said connecting lines and said thick portions is larger than a film thickness of said second electrodes [electrode provided on a topmost surface].